accordance with the practices and usages customary among banks and in confirmity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks, information relating to individual constituents of the banks cannot be divulge.

Smuggling of feathers of peacocks and herons out of the country

@1968. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that feathers of peacocks and herons are being smuggled out of the country packed into containers with the label of mica powder and sandalwood billets;

(b) if so, since when this smuggling is going on; and

(c) what action has so far been taken by Government or is proposed to be taken in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) An attempt to smuggle feathers of peacocks packed in containers was foiled by Madras Customs in April, 1993.

(b) No other attempt to smuggle feathers of peacocks and herons packed in containers has come to notice.

(c) Field formations have been alerted to prevent smuggling.

ऋणों को माफ किया जाना

1969. **श्री प्रकाश यशवन्त अम्बेडकर** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 30 मई, 1990 को उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने 2 अक्तूबर, 1989 से पूर्व पात्रता के अनुसार प्रदान किए गए 10,000 रुपए तक के ऋणों को माफ करने के संबंध में आदेश जारी किया था ;

(ख) अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति/ अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के कितने व्यक्तियों के ऋणों को माफ किया गया है;

(ग) इस आदेश को पूरी तरह से कार्यान्वित न करने के क्या कारण हैं, और

(घ) सरकार इस मामले में कौन-कौन से कदम उठा रही है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद) : (क) से (घ) सम्भवत: माननीय सदस्य भारत सरकार द्वारा तैयार की गयी कृषि और ग्रामीण ऋण राहत (एआरडीआर) योजना, 1990 का उल्लेख कर रहे हैं जिसमें ऋणकर्ताओं की एक चयनित श्रेणी को ऋण राहत देने की व्यवस्था है, जिनमें ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के कृषक भूमिहीन श्रमिक, कारीगर और बुनकर शामिल हैं जिन्होंने सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों और क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों से ऋण लिया है। केन्द्रीय सरकार की सलाह पर उत्तरप्रदेश सहित राज्य सरकारों ने सहकारी क्षेत्र में ऋणकर्ताओं के लाभ के लिए केन्द्रीय योजना के अनुरूप अपनी-अपनी योजनाएं भी तैयार की थीं। 2 अक्तूबर, 1989 की स्थिति के अनुसार 10 000/- रुपये तक प्रति ऋणकर्ता के रूप में इस योजना में पात्र ऋणकर्ताओं के समस्त अतिदेय राशियां शामिल थीं। राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (नाबार्ड) के पास उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार, इस योजना के तहत सहकारी क्षेत्र में उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य में 7.07 लाख अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति हिताधिकारियों को 110 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि ऋण राहत के रूप में प्रदान की थीं। यह योजना ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में गरीब कृषकों आदि को राहत प्रदान करने का एक बारगी उपाय था जो अपने संचित अतिदेयताओं की पुनर्अदायगी करने में असमर्थ थे और अत: अपने उत्पादन संबंधी क्रियाकलापों को जारी रखने के लिए नये ऋणों को उधार लेने में अक्षम थे। कृषि और ग्रामीण ऋण राहत योजना 15 मई, 1990

@Previously unstarred Question 1055, transferred from 4th August, 1993.

से प्रभावी हुई थी और 31 मार्च, 1991 को बन्द हो गयी थी ।

Recovery of Smuggled Drugs/Silver from AI Jumbo Jet

@1970. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently smuggled drugs and silver were recovered from an air India Jumbo Jet, concealed in special cavities therein;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several such cases had been detected in the past in which Air India aircraft coming back from abroad were found to be carrying concealed contraband;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof for the last three years; and

(e) what action Government proposes to take to prevent the use of Air India aircrafts for smuggling purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Crdit Policy for Indian Industry

@@1971. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has urged Government to formulate credit policy to enable the industry to increase productivity and stimulate growth;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to bring necessary changes in its policy to give benefits to industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has, inter-alia, suggested a cut in lending rate by 2-3 percentage points, reduction in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) to 25 per cent by 1995-96, restoration of bill discounting facilities for genuine trade transactions and making adequate credit available in the market, particularly for trade and services.

(b) to (d) Credit policy is formulated by the Reserve Bank of India in consultation with the Government and generally announced twice, that is, in April and in October separately for two halves of the Financial year. The formulation of credit policy takes note of overall economic policy objectives and the economic reforms programme initiated by the Government. Suggestions made by CII and other fora from time to time are kept in view in this formulation process.

The interest rate on bank advances of over Rs. 2 lakhs has, however, been reduced in two stages from 18 per cent (minimum) to 16 per cent (minimum) between March and June 1993 which is expected to benefit the borrowers from the industrial sector.

Non-Deposit of Air Travel Tax

@@@1972 SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that crores of rupees collected as air travel tax by East-

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@Previously unstarred Quesion 1358, transferred from 5th August, 1993.

@@Previously unstarred Question 1474, transferred from 5th August, 1993

@@@Previously unstarred Question 1387, transferred from 5th August, 1993.